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CONSIDERATIONS

WHICH MAY TEND TO PROMOTE

THE SETTLEMENT

OF OUR NEW

WEST-INDIA COLONIES,

By Encouraging Individuals to embark in the Undertaking.

By the Late Sir Wm Young of Delaford

Certus enim promisit Apollo,
Ambiguam tellure nova Salamina futuram.
Cras ingens iterabimus æquor.

HOR. Ode 7.

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CONSIDERATIONS

WHICH MAY TEND TO PROMOTE

THE SETTLEMENT

OF

OUR NEW WEST-INDIA COLONIES, &c.

THE deſire of promoting an enterprize productive of both national advantage and private intereſt, has induced me to communicate to the publick ſuch thoughts, as may tend to advance the ſettlement of our new Weſt India colonies, and encourage individuals to embark in ſo uſeful and lucrative an undertaking.

THE eſtabliſhment of colonies has in all ages and countries, and amongſt men of the higheſt abilities and rank, been ever eſteemed honorable and ornamental to the moſt exalted characters; and at the concluſion of a peace, by which ſo ſo great an acceſſion of territory hath been made to theſe kingdoms, it is to be hoped there will be found ſome men of eminence and ſpirit, who will deign to countenance by their example, and aſſiſt in perfecting, ſo noble a deſign.

To nations ſupported principally by trade and navigation, the eſtabliſhment of remote colonies, (whoſe wants are conſtantly ſupplied by large exports from home, and whoſe returns of produce and manufactures greatly increaſe the revenue; and, not interfering with thoſe of the mother country, nor drawing away its ſpecie, have the further advantages of creating and connecting with it, ſtill other profitable branches of commerce and communication with Africa, and the continent of America) is particularly beneficial and important. Our Weſt India Iſlands, ſituated and circumſtanced as they are, ought to be deemed infinitely more valuable, than if together with their climate and production, they were driven by a gale of wind to the land's end, and there made part of the Terra firma of Old England. If all our fiſheries were confined to the river Thames, our ſugar and other American produce procured from Tower Hill, and our coals from Blackheath, farewell to the commerce, naval power and ſecurity of Great Britain. But happily for us, what we miſtake for our intereſt, and with becauſe we do not underſtand, is often not permitted us to obtain. The ſuppoſition, although it may ſerve to illuſtrate my meaning, can never happen. The natural effects of place, relative ſituation, and climate, and the mutual wants and neceſſities of men, give ingenuity and induſtry to our faculties, and conſtitute that buſy

ſcene

ſcene of ſubordination and dependance, that compoſe a great and commercial people. In this extenſive view, our Weſt India colonies deſerve certainly to be conſidered as affectionately by the mother country, as if they were really ſo many remote counties, ſeparated from it by ſeas, inſtead of rivers or land boundaries: and ſo far from our being jealous, or indifferent concerning their proſperity and contentment, we ſhould acknowledge and cheriſh them as members of our own body, thus forming one vaſt Leviathan.

If ſuch ſentiments as theſe are conſiſtent with found policy, and the national welfare, and might therefore properly enough be expected to influence men in high ſtation to countenance by their example the ſettlement of our new iſlands; there will not be wanting arguments of a more particular nature, to attract others, from private conſiderations of emolument, to embark in this undertaking.

In theſe expenſive times a handſome increaſe of fortune to ourſelves or families, is without doubt eligible to many of us. A life of corrupt dependance, an eſtate labouring under growing incumbrances, or a neceſſitous reduction of the conveniences or ſplendor we have been accuſtomed to, are evils that every man would wiſh to remedy; and to thoſe who do not actually ſuffer under theſe misfortunes, a tender con-

cern for the eaſe and independance of their poſterity, may be a ſufficient motive to provide the means of preſerving to them theſe ineſtimable bleſſings. But how to accompliſh theſe deſirable ends, ſeems now the important queſtion to be reſolved.

THE propoſal of a project doubtful in ſpeculation, and difficult in practice, and which may be attended with loſs, inſtead of profit, in the event, will not be adopted, without mature conſideration, by perſons of real fortune and ſolid underſtandings. Before ſuch can be induced to think of procuring lands and eſtabliſhing eſtates in our new Weſt India colonies, (which is what I mean to promote and ſhew the expediency of,) the ſecurity of the undertaking, and the extraordinary emoluments to be derived from it, ſeem neceſſary to be explained and underſtood.

THE Iſlands that are the objects of my preſent reflection and recommendation, are thoſe ceded to his Majeſty in the Weſt Indies, by the late Peace. They conſiſt of Grenada and the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent and Tobago, and are all ſituated in the neighbourhood of Barbadoes and our leeward iſlands, being only a few days ſail from the moſt remote of them, and but one or two from Barbadoes, the moſt windward, beſt peopled, and moſt powerful of any of our ſugar colonies.

To

To ſuch of my readers, as may happen to be wholly unacquainted with them, it may not be unacceptable to receive ſome general ideas concerning each.

GRENADA is ſituated ſo far to the Southward as to enjoy from thence the advantage of being free from hurricanes, and will probably in time receive ſome emoluments of trade from the Spaniſh main, from which it is not very diſtant. It poſſeſſes two good harbours, and in a war with the Spaniards might prove inconvenient to many of their ſhips, which paſs this way into the bay of Honduras, and the Gulf of Mexico. Our poſſeſſion of Florida contributes to make this advantage to us the greater. The French in war will likewiſe be ſenſible of the want of it; for in order to eſcape our cruizers to windward of Martinique, it has not been uncommon for their veſſels from Europe, to ſteer their courſe for the Grenades or it's dependancies, and to advance northward in ſecurity to their intended ports. The country is mountainous and rainy, which circumſtances enable it regularly to yield good crops, and the ſoil produces a ſugar of moſt excellent quality. It is well watered with rivulets, and abounds with good proviſion grounds for the negroes, which ſave conſiderable expence to the planters in their maintenance. This iſland having been indiſputably under the dominion of

France

France, 'till reduced by us in the laſt war, the inhabitants of it obtained a more favorable capitulation than thoſe I am about to ſpeak of hereafter, who had no ſuch pretenſions to lenity. In conſequence therefore of this capitulation, and the definitive treaty of peace, they were and are entitled (contrary to what is permitted the inhabitants of the other iſlands I am about to deſcribe) to the poſſeſſion and diſpoſition of their eſtates. Many of them have accordingly ſold to Britiſh ſubjects their ſugar plantations (of which there are in all eighty two, beſides thoſe of coffee and cocoa.) The French have harangued in the ſtyle of ſellers, and the impatience of our countrymen and their love of novelty, has induced them to pay very high prices for their poſſeſſions, when a little time would have convinced them that better lands are to be procured from the crown at a much cheaper rate in our other iſlands, and more conſiſtently with the publick intereſt. It is thought, however, that their bargains will turn out well, and their plantations be very improveable. As to the lands yet ungranted or forfeited to the crown, it is reaſonable to ſuppoſe, by their being unoccupied, that they are in general ill ſituated, or not of the moſt excellent kind. The grants made to the French ſettlers are uſually a certain number of paces along the ſea ſide, running in parallel lines to the top of the mountain. The lower parts are commonly cultivated by the planters, the upper by

the

the negroes, and the heights are either in wood, or inacceſſible.

The Grenadines form a chain of innumerable rocks and barren ſpots good for little. Some however are of conſiderable ſize and value, particularly Curacoa and Becuya. The former is inhabited, and produces good cotton, the latter remains entirely unſettled and in wood.

Dominica, from it's vicinity to Martinique and Guadalupe, will in times of war be liable to frequent alarms and inconveniences, if not protected by a ſufficient naval power; but as it's ſituation between thoſe two iſlands enables it to cut off their communication, and to be particularly obnoxious to their trade and navigation, it is reaſonable to expect theſe advantages will not be neglected, eſpecially as it has always been thought neceſſary for us to preſerve in thoſe ſeas a reſpectable force, upon which the ſecurity of our neighbouring colonies equally depends. It poſſeſſes to leeward a moſt noble bay, called Prince Rupert's, which, beſides it's ſafety, it's magnitude, the depth of the water, and the goodneſs of the anchorage, has the advantage of three freſh rivulets running into it. It has moreover two arms (one a peninſula) ſtretch'd forth, as it were, for it's defence, which might be rendered almoſt impregnable; and indeed the whole iſland appears as a natural fortification or ſtrong hold, capable

capable of diſcouraging and baffling with a very ſmall force the moſt deſperate attempts of a formidable enemy. In the track of veſſels from our leeward iſlands to our new acquired ones it is admirably well ſituated for commerce; and contiguous as it were to the French, is ever open to the practice of a clandeſtine trade. The country is in general extremely mountainous and broken; but it affords, notwithſtanding, much excellent land, and the valleys, luxuriant in their ſoil, are plentifully watered with fine rivers. The grounds eſpecially in the neighbourhood of Prince Rupert's bay are rich, extenſive and of eaſy aſcent, yet (as this iſland was declared to be neutral by the peace of Aix la Chapelle) they have been the leaſt cleared and cultivated by the French, becauſe of the frequent viſits of his Majeſty's ſhips to wood and water here. From what has been ſaid it is eaſy to perceive that this is an important ſituation, and will probably be the ſeat of a conſiderable commercial town. In different places along the coaſt the white inhabitants (who are in number about fourteen hundred, and poſſeſs from five to ſix thouſand negroes) have cleared and ſettled many valuable plantations producing cotton, coffee and cocoa, particularly at Grande Bay (where the Jeſuits have large poſſeſſions, and at Lubiere, Roſeau, and elſewhere. But as theſe ſettlements are conſiderable, and have been eſtabliſhed in violation of treaties, and contrary to the rights

of

of the British crown, the lands which have been occupied by religious ſocieties, will be ſold for the benefit of the publick, and the remaining inhabitants will be permitted to enjoy their eſtates, only ſubject to ſuch terms, conditions and reſtrictions, as, conſiſtent with his Majeſty's lenity, and ſound policy, have been thought neceſſary to be required, and which will hereafter be more fully explained.

ST. VINCENT is an admirable good iſland, within ſight of Barbadoes, from whence it will probably derive many inhabitants. It poſſeſſes a large and moſt excellent bay to leeward, called Wallibou. The ſides of the mountains are generally eaſy and gradual in their aſcent, and the plains and valleys interſperſed among them, remarkably fertile, and plentifully watered. The eaſtern part, which is chiefly in wood, is inhabited by about 2000 natives, who owe their origin to a ſhip freighted with negroes from Africa to Barbadoes, and wrecked on theſe coaſts. Their forefathers amidſt the general diſtreſs eſcaped to ſhore, and found in a deſart iſland a releaſe from their bondage. Thus from apparent evils, do ſometimes flow, the greateſt bleſſings. Recovered from their fears, and refreſhed with ſuch ſuſtenance as could be found, it is natural to ſuppoſe they ſoon ſolaced themſelves with their female friends of the party; and as a ſtate of nature is no enemy to propagation, they of courſe

gave birth to a free people. It is ſaid, they found in the woods a few native Charaibes, whom they have gradually extirpated, or reduced to their obedience. They have been uſually repreſented as turbulent and dangerous, but experience now convinces us, that they are a quiet and well diſpoſed people, ſpeaking French, and inſtructed by Roman catholic miſſionaries, in the principles of their religion. By the laſt accounts received from thence, many of them ſeemed diſpoſed to quit their little cottages, and ſpots of proviſion ground, and to remove to St. Lucia, or Martinique. But probably, when they are duly apprized of the humanity and generoſity of our gracious Sovereign, and aſſured of the enjoyment of their lands, freedom, favor and protection, they may be gained over to our cauſe, and even rendered uſeful. I have already obſerved, that theſe people inhabit the eaſtern ſide of the iſland: The interior parts remain in wood; but, the weſtern coaſts are fully peopled, and well ſettled by near 2000 inhabitants, who have found means to inſinuate themſelves into this country, as well as Dominica, contrary to the faith of treaties, and the pretenſions of the Britiſh crown. They will therefore be put upon the ſame footing with one another, and permitted to enjoy their cultivated grounds, only upon ſuch terms as ſeem conſiſtent with lenity to them, and attention to the publick welfare. I ſhall not conclude this account of St. Vincent, without aſſuring the publick, that it has

been

been daily found a more excellent and important acquiſition to Great Britain, in proportion as it has been better known. It's preſent produce of coffee, cocoa, and the fineſt tobacco, proves very conſiderable. The richneſs of the ſoil, and the face of the country, are perfectly adapted for the growth of ſugar; and as it is already in part cleared of wood, and the air healthy, there ſeems great reaſon to expect, that it will very ſoon be claſſed amongſt the beſt, and moſt valueable of our ſugar colonies.

Tobago, with reſpect to ſituation, enjoys the ſame advantages as Grenada; and though it does not poſſeſs any harbours properly ſo called, has ſeveral good bays, which, conſidering that from their ſouthern latitude, they are never expoſed to dangerous gales of wind, are equally convenient and ſecure to ſhipping. For this reaſon, our men of war ſtationed at our leeward colonies, uſually repair hither for ſafety in the hurricane months. This iſland, from it's having been long diſputed by different powers, and in conſequence deemed neutral, remains wild, uncultivated, and in wood; but it will probably become the moſt valuable, of any ceded to us by the late peace. The ſoil is excellent, if one may judge from it's appearance, and the growth and luxuriancy of the trees it affords, and the country is well watered, and ſufficiently mountainous to inſure rains, without being ſo ſteep and broken, as to obſtruct

the uſe of carriages, and an eaſy communication. The cinnamon tree, as well as many others of great profit and curioſity, is ſaid to flouriſh here, and it is by ſome writers deſcribed, as abounding with all the productions and variegated ſcenery of an enchanted iſle. The eſtabliſhment of a ſmall ſettlement here, as a publick garden for the improvement of botany and medicine, and the preſervation and culture of ſuch plants as might prove beneficial to commerce, and ſuitable to the ſoil and climate, would probably be productive of much advantage to Great Britain. Such an inſtitution, under the inſpection of an ingenious man, acquainted with botany, chymiſtry and medicine, with an able draftſman, two good gardeners, and eight or ten working negroes, under his direction, could not fail of promoting uſeful knowlege, and conferring honor on it's generous patrons.

THE ſeveral iſlands I have been deſcribing, namely Grenada and the Grenadines, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, his Majeſty has been pleaſed to unite under one Government, after the model of the leeward iſlands. Accordingly a governor in chief has been conſtituted, of integrity, ability, and experience, together with lieutenant governors, and other neceſſary officers, both civil and military, who appear well qualified for the execution of their reſpective duties. Three regiments are ſent thither, for

their

their protection, with a proper staff, together with engineers, a company of artillery men, and the neceſſary ordinance and warlike ſtores. And for the better ſupport and accommodation of thoſe, whoſe publick employments require an immediate reſidence at Tobago, or whoſe private views may carry them thither, two proper ſhips are ſtationed, and will be continued there, 'till conveniences can be procured on ſhore. The lands appertaining to his Majeſty in all theſe iſlands, are directed, as immediately as poſſible, to be allotted and diſpoſed of for the publick benefit, commiſſioners have been appointed for this purpoſe, and ſurveyors are actually engaged in the work. But as ſeveral doubts have aroſe concerning the plan of government on this occaſion, it may not be improper to enter into a detail of this ſubject, and then to conſider thoſe parts of it which ſeem liable to objection.

The object of government appears to be of a mixed nature. The lands, both cleared and uncleared, are the property of his Majeſty; of which, ſo much will be retained to the crown, as ſhall be found neceſſary for publick uſes; of the remainder, ſufficient quantities in wood are meant to be granted to poor ſettlers; the reſt (excepting what may be continued to the natives in St. Vincent, and the preſent French inhabitants, on motives of humanity and good policy) is fairly to be ſold at publick auction, for as much money

as

as it will bring, which is faithfully to be applied to the publick ſervice. But then this view is to be ſo accompliſhed, as to be compatible with the ſpeedy population, and culture of the iſlands themſelves.

EACH iſland is to be ſurveyed as ſoon as poſſible, with as much accuracy as the nature of the woods and mountains, and the rugged face of the country will allow. The diviſion of pariſhes, publick roads, intended towns and churches, with all lands, fortifications, and other buildings ſerviceable to the king or publick, are to be firſt attended to, and properly provided for. And moreover, certain proportions of land in wood, will be preſerved on the tops of hills, and on other convenient places, for the publick benefit, and to prevent that drought, which, in theſe climates, is the uſual conſequence of a total removal of the woods. As to the choice and arrangement of the ground intended for the principal town, regard is to be had to the healthfulneſs of the ſituation, all the neceſſary conveniences for ſhipping, and an eaſy carriage and communication, to and from the neighbouring country. The ſtreets are to be airy, and ſo diſpoſed as to receive the benefit of the trade winds; and ſuitable proportions, for yards, gardens, or ſmall fields, will be annexed to the ſeveral lots for houſes. Convenient market places are to be appointed, and good barrack grounds, with adjacent lands for the various uſes

of

of the King's officers and troops, and which the private men at their leiſure hours, may cultivate for the ſervice of the officers, and themſelves. In theſe infant colonies they are thought intitled to this, and every other reaſonable indulgence of favour and humanity, particularly an allowance of the King's proviſions, and an immediate eſtabliſhment of barracks, and a well provided hoſpital.

The lands which are cultivable, will be divided into lots, numbered, and laid down on paper, with proper deſcriptions and boundaries, to prevent miſtakes. What is granted will be, in wood, from 10 to 30 acres, according to the ability of poor ſettlers, and for their farther encouragement, many of theſe parcels will have the advantage of being near the ſea ſide, at proper diſtances from one another. By this means, the poſſeſſors may immediately begin to clear the ground, and will have a ſhort and eaſy conveyance to and from the ſea, be eaſily ſupplied with all kinds of fiſh, for the ſupport of themſelves and negroes, and the coaſts will moreover be ſtrengthened with inhabitants. To theſe grants will be annexed certain moderate conditions of culture, and the lands thus granted to poor ſettlers, are to be unalienable for ſeven years, and incapable of being united with any other, excepting in caſe of marriage, or lawful inheritance, or by conſent of the governor and council.

The

The poor natives of St. Vincent are to remain undisturbed in their cottages and grounds, and the French inhabitants, in that island and Dominica, are permitted to enjoy their possessions, by virtue of leases under the crown, in the following manner, and subject to the following conditions; that is to say, the lessee is to take the oaths of allegiance, and subscribe the declaration of abjuration against the pretender. He is to hold, by his lease, only such cleared lands, as he was, at the surrender of those islands, and still is, possessed of, excepting where his very great convenience makes some small alterations necessary, in which case small parcels of contiguous lands may be added, and comprized therein, as the commissioners shall judge reasonable. In cases where lands were held before the late peace, by several French proprietors jointly, some of whom are since retired from them, they are to be severed into parts, and indulgence shewn in the division, to those who are contented to remain and receive their portions. But the lands which have been occupied by religious societies, are not included within the meaning of these provisions, nor intitled to the same favor, but are to be otherwise disposed of. And if any French inhabitant there happens to be, who has occupied more than 500 acres of land, as above described, in St. Vincent, or 300 in Dominica, his possessions are to be reduced to those numbers.

Neither

Neither the leaſes, or any part of the lands thereby demiſed, are aſſignable to any other perſon, without a licence firſt had from the governor, and the approbation of the Lords Commiſſioners for trade and plantations; and a covenant is alſo to be inſerted in the leaſe, that the leſſee ſhall reſide at leaſt one half of the year in the iſland where the lands lie. Under theſe reſtrictions, and with theſe conditions, leaſes may be granted for the terms of fourteen, twenty one, thirty two, or forty years, at the option of the leſſees; or (if they prefer it) for fourteen years, renewable at the pleaſure of the leſſees for a further number of years, not exceeding forty in the whole. And in conſideration hereof certain fines are to be paid down, and quit rents reſerved to the crown, according to the nature and circumſtances of the caſe. But if any French inhabitant ſhall not be diſpoſed to occupy the land, he has already cleared, upon the terms of the leaſe required of him, he will be permitted to take up uncleared lands, to be allotted him by the commiſſioners, in lieu of the former, and be moreover paid for the buildings thereon, by fair appraiſement.

With reſpect to all lands in any of the iſlands, which are the objects of the commiſſion, and which are not comprized in the above deſcriptions of lands, reſerved for publick uſes, or ſet apart for poor ſettlers, or which are the rightful property of the French inhabitants in Grenada and

the Grenadines, or leaſed out to them in Dominica or St. Vincent, or poſſeſſed by the natives therein; inſtructions are further given by the government, to diſpoſe of the ſame by publick ſale. They will therefore be divided into allotments of different ſize and extent, in Dominica from fifty to three hundred acres in each lot, and in the other iſlands from one hundred to five hundred acres. The end propoſed by this diſtinction, ſeems to have been, a ſuperior population in Dominica, which is ſuppoſed in general too mountainous, for large ſugar eſtabliſhments, and, by it's ſituation, to ſtand in need of being well inhabited. Theſe ſeveral lots will be ſo contrived and laid out, as to embrace every circumſtance of convenience, the ſituation is capable of. And in order to prevent frauds, partiality, and undue preferences, and to ſell the lands to the beſt advantage the nature of the thing will admit of, they will be ſet up to fair and publick auction, and ſold to the beſt bidder, at a price not leſs than five pounds per acre, if the lands are cleared, nor leſs than twenty ſhillings per acre, if uncleared; and as ſpeedy notice as poſſible will be given in the publick papers of Great Britain, Ireland, and America, concerning the allotments, time, place, and conditions of ſale. And for the better accommodation of purchaſers, the terms of payment are rendered extremely eaſy. The times of ſale will be twice a year, in the moſt ſeaſonable months of that climate; that is

to

to ſay, between the firſt day of February and the middle of July, as it may be found moſt eligible to appoint; and the utmoſt diſpatch is now uſing, by the directions of government, for preparing lands for ſale before thoſe months, in the enſuing year. The place of ſale will either be Grenada, or the particular iſland about to be diſpoſed of. The terms of purchaſe are 20 per cent paid down, (and ſix pence * per acre to defray the charges of the ſurvey) ten per cent. more within the firſt year, ten per cent. within the ſecond, and twenty per cent. within every ſucceſſive year, 'till the whole ſhall be paid; which will of courſe compleat the payments in five years. The lands will be conveyed in fee, but in default of any of the annual payments, they will be liable to be again ſold, in order that the king may be firſt paid, and the reſidue will be the property of thoſe before entitled to it. Moreover, to prevent monopolies, and to inſure the progreſs and cultivation of the new colony, certain conditions of ſale and culture will be annexed to the grants. No perſon will be permited to purchaſe of the crown in his own name, or in the names of others, in truſt for him, more than five hundred acres in the iſland where the lands lie; and if in Dominica, not more than three hundred acres, but which may conſiſt of different lots, as he may happen to approve.

* Whatever ſums are expreſſed in the courſe of theſe ſheets, are to be underſtood as Sterling.

And it is required of purchaſers, from ſix months after the date of the grant, to clear away their lands at the rate of five acres per cent. annually, till one half of their cultivable lands ſhall be cleared, under a penalty of five pounds per annum for every acre not cleared, in purſuance of ſuch condition: and for every hundred acres of cleared lands, the purchaſer is, or ſhall be poſſeſſed of, he is obliged to keep thereon one white man, or two white women, under a penalty of forty pounds yearly for each man, and twenty pounds for each woman defective, and is to pay an annual quit rent to his Majeſty of ſix pence per acre on whatever cleared land he has purchaſed, or ſhall clear, in purſuance of the conditions required.

As to the town and field lots, conſiſting of cleared land, they will be ſold in the ſame manner, as the other allotments, reſerving a quit rent of one penny per foot in front for the town lots, and ſix pence per acre for the field lots. But ſuch of theſe as happen to be uncleared, will be granted away gratis, and in both theſe caſes the grantee is required to erect thereon, within two years, a dwelling houſe, ſhop, warehouſe, or outhouſe. The grants of theſe town and field lots, as well as thoſe to poor ſettlers, are irrevocable. But with reſpect to other lands ſold at publick auction, the grants thereof will, in caſes of fraud and colluſion, be revocable for the

the ſpace of twelve months, from the date thereof, by the Lords Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's treaſury; but if not revoked within the ſaid term, the grant ſhall then be abſolute. If revoked, notice thereof ſhall be immediately tranſmitted to the commiſſioners, and the purchaſe money ſhall be returned, with the uſual intereſt of the iſland thereon, together with a juſt compenſation for any improvements made on the lands, to be aſcertained by arbitration between the parties.

THIS recapitulation of the plan of government, contains all the particulars, that it ſeems neceſſary the publick ſhould be apprized of, and an attentive peruſal and examination of them will convince every impartial reader, that they are ſuch as were thought moſt likely to be productive of national good, and the progreſs of the new colonies. Much care and reflection ſeem to have been exerted on the occaſion. Little has been forgot, or unattended to; and in general, it muſt be acknowledged, that the inſtructions given, and the precautions taken, are judicious and able, as well as honorable. Some parts of the plan and conditions required, have nevertheleſs been repreſented as exceptionable and diſcouraging; it may not therefore be improper to afford them ſome conſideration.

IF the lands had been propoſed to be given away, and this was all, it is not to be doubted but that many perſons would gladly have accepted

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accepted them. But this would have thrown open the gates to ſollicitation, partiality and corruption; and perſons in office might have availed themſelves in ſecret, of the undue preferences afforded to others; whereas the preſent method of diſpoſing of the lands at fair and publick auction, effectually removes theſe apprehenſions, and holds forth a common benefit, that may be embraced by all indifferently, without favor or reward. No man will be induced to pay more, than, he thinks, he has an equivalent for. The minimum of five pounds on cleared land, is leſs than the bare expence of removing the woods, and one pound for uncleared land, in theſe iſlands, can never, in earneſt, be thought too much to inſiſt on. No perſon, acquainted with the nature of Weſt India plantations, will ever be a bidder for indifferent or ill ſituated lands, when better may as eaſily be procured, and the very choice or preference to the buyer, is worth more than five times the minimum. The expences of clearing, cultivation, and ſettlement, and the annual produce of fertile ſoils, in this part of the world, in fact renders the prime coſt not worthy attention. And when it is further conſidered, that five years are allowed for the payment, the pretence is too trifling to need a ſerious reply. The eſtabliſhment of infant colonies, muſt neceſſarily be expenſive to the mother country; and at a time, when the national debt is ſo enormous, that the effects are ſeverely felt and complained of, it is

but

but reaſonable, that ſome returns ſhould be expected from the diſpoſition of theſe lands. Men of ſufficient property to take up and ſettle ſuch lots as will be ſold at publick auction, may very well pay what can be got for them; and with reſpect to poor ſettlers, from ten to thirty acres, (which will be granted to them gratis, according to their abilities) is full as much as they will know what to do with. It were indeed to be wiſhed, ſtill further encouragements could have been afforded them; but this could not be effected, without ſuitable funds, and there does not ſeem a diſpoſition to be contented with additional taxes at home, for the benefit of thoſe abroad. As to the quit rents, reſerved to the crown, of ſix pence per acre, it will affect the cultivated lands only; and although the weight will, on this account, be ſcarcely felt, yet all purchaſers will, or may, conſider it in their bidding. It is well known, his Majeſty has been graciouſly pleaſed, to direct the money ariſing from theſe ſales, to be appropriated for the advantage of his ſubjects; and this ſmall tribute of a quit rent, reſerved to a ſovereign, ought not to be thought too much, when we reflect on the inſtances of generoſity and paternal affection, manifeſted to his people, and which ought to attract, from principles of gratitude, far greater obligations of duty and attachment.

MANY inconveniences are found to have occurred in new colonies, from individuals having been

been ſuffered to monopolize more lands, than they could, or would cultivate; and therefore, to prevent theſe ill effects, no man is now permitted, to take up in his own name, or for his own uſe, in any one iſland, more than the number of acres, which has been ſpecified. But although purchaſers are rendered incapable of doing ſo in the firſt inſtance, in order to prevent monopolies and jobbing, and that the field may lie open to every adventurer; yet it is obvious, that as the lands will be conveyed in fee, they muſt neceſſarily be alienable; no means therefore could be deviſed to prevent a transfer of property, without creating ſtill greater evils, than thoſe intended to be remedied, and which are too evident to need mentioning. Hence it follows, that an equality of poſſeſſions cannot be long maintained, nor is it neceſſary that it ſhould; provided the public intereſt is ſtill promoted, and the new iſland advancing in cultivation and ſettlement.

From all theſe conſiderations, appeared the propriety of exacting certain conditions of culture and population, under certain penalties. But if the time, from which the conditions of clearing commences, ſhould really be found too ſhort to be complied with, it cannot be doubted, but that ſtill further time will be allowed. In all theſe exigences, the ſpirit of the intention is principally to be attended to; and experience in

ſimilar caſes convinces us, that we need never dread a rigorous exaction of conditions and penalties, provided the rational views of adminiſtration for the general good are not obſtructed. It can never be ſuppoſed, that the orders of government are to be ſo executed as to defeat it's own purpoſes, or add puniſhment to misfortune, 'till the meaſure of diſtreſs is full. On the contrary, it's intereſt is to countenance and ſupport the honeſt endeavours of the induſtrious, and it's true policy, not to ſee what it ought not to condemn. But prudence required that it ſhould guard againſt the danger of allowing to avaritious and deſigning men, an uncontroulable power of retarding the growth and progreſs of an infant colony, and being injurious to the publick good.

WHAT has been juſt advanced, to remove any objection on the part of purchaſers, to the conditions and penalties impoſed, and to obviate any apprehenſions of rigor from government on that account, is in a great meaſure applicable to the power retained by the Lords Commiſſioners of his Majeſty's treaſury, of revoking the ſales within twelve months from the date of the grant. The intention was evidently not to endanger the validity and ſecurity of the ſales, by an undue exertion of authority, but only to prevent fraud, and to enſure that the publick ſhould be ſerved with integrity. However, to remove as much

as poſſible any ſuſpicions on this head, his Majeſty in his inſtructions to the commiſſioners, has been pleaſed to expreſs the power reſerved to be in caſes of fraud and colluſion.

As to the obligation of maintaining one white man, or two white women, on every hundred acres of cleared land, it can never be ſeriouſly complained of; for without any ſuch obligation, the buſineſs of plantations will neceſſarily require, at leaſt, ſuch a proportion. And when we reflect that the want of people in our Weſt India iſlands, ariſes in a great meaſure from the paucity of women, the alternative permitted may help to remedy the defect.

With reſpect to the natives of St. Vincent, enough has been ſaid already. His Majeſty's humanity exerciſed on this occaſion, will never endanger the ſafety or honor of his people. But nevertheleſs, to take away every foundation of apprehenſion, a regiment has been ſent thither to ſecure it's tranquillity. The arrangement of what regards the French inhabitants in that iſland and Dominica, has been a matter of much altercation. It has been contended by ſome, that as they have no juſt pretenſions to indulgence, and will probably never become good ſubjects, they ought not to have been permitted to hold the lands thus uſurped, without paying fully for them. It has been ſaid again, on the other hand, that they are entitled to ſome favor, and are diſpoſed

poſed to become uſeful and faithful ſubjects, and might properly enough, therefore, have been allowed the fee of the lands they occupied. But after mature reflexion, perhaps it will be found, that the middle way purſued by government, has been the moſt judicious; for if they had been entirely deprived of their plantations, there is no doubt but they would have removed themſelves and ſlaves to the neighbouring French iſlands; and thus a number of uſeful inhabitants, * accuſtomed to the climate, and their property in negroes to a great amount, together with the produce and revenue ariſing from their labour, would have been loſt to Great Britain, and acquired by France. Again, if they had been permitted to enjoy their lands in full right, they probably would have ſoon ſold their cultivated grounds to Britiſh purchaſers, and then withdrawn themſelves, and their effects. Neither of theſe were thought eligible for the publick intereſt; and therefore leaſes under the crown are propoſed to be granted them, liable to ſuch fines, quit-rents, conditions, and alternatives, as they will not accept, unleſs diſpoſed to become good ſubjects; or, if accepted, will effectually ſecure their being ſo.

ALL that ſeemed neceſſary to convince the reader, that no real objection or diſcouragement

* The number of French inhabitants in Dominica and St. Vincent amount to near 4000, and their ſlaves to upwards of 12000.

to the purchaſing lands, is to be apprehended from the plan of government, has now been fully conſidered and explained.

But it is moreover objected to this undertaking, that the probability and danger of a ſpeedy war with France, and the uncertainty of the enterprize ever proving beneficial, are ſufficient reaſons not to engage in it. The ſtate of parties, and the prejudices conſequential of them, unfortunately often operate upon private men, ſo as to render them blind to their own intereſts. Is it reaſonable, that France, reduced ſo lately to the utmoſt diſtreſs, by the total ruin of her trade and publick credit, and the deſtruction of her naval power, ſhould in earneſt ſo ſoon think of commencing hoſtilities, with the poor remains of a vanquiſhed fleet, againſt a nation triumphant in every part of the globe, and poſſeſſed of that ſuperior navy, and thoſe veterans, that conſtitute a number of the braveſt and moſt experienced men, that ever did honor to their country? Is it not more probable, that whatever her wiſhes may be, ſhe will ſtill have wiſdom to conceal her ambitious views 'till ſome properer period, when the ſpirit of our officers and men ſhall be extinguiſhed by inactivity, our numerous ſhips decayed and in diſorder, and their own navy increaſed and rendered formidable, by all the perſevering arts of peace, and long conſiſtent policy? Have not the various events of ſix unhappy years taught her this plain leſſon, that however great

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her internal ſtrength and reſources may be, it is a ſuperior naval power alone, can tranſport with ſecurity her forces to diſtant iſlands, and protect or ſubdue remote colonies? But if her ardour and reſentment ſhould ſtill make her impatient of delay, what advantages in America can a ſpeedy rupture afford her now? Would not Martinique, Guadalupe, and St. Domingo be ſoon expoſed to our attacks? Have we already forgot with what rapidity a ſuperior fleet and experienced ſoldiery, have ſubdued what was vainly once deemed impregnable, and the weakneſs of which, unknown to us before, we have now ſo fully diſcovered? But granted that theſe attempts ſhould not be conceived againſt them, what have we to dread on our part? Have not our Weſt India iſlands enjoyed ſecurity and protection, and flouriſhed moſt, even in the boſom of war? Are we leſs ſecure in thoſe ſeas, than we were before, becauſe the Grenades, Dominica, St. Vincent, and Tobago, are now added to our dominion? If ſo, in vain are three regiments appointed to inſure the tranquillity of theſe iſlands, attended with ſufficient ordnance and warlike ſtores, and all the neceſſary detail that attention and caution could ſuggeſt. And if theſe ſeveral reflexions ſhould ſtill be unable to ſilence our apprehenſions for the future ſafety of our Weſt India iſlands, what ſhall we ſay concerning our preſent ample poſſeſſion of the vaſt continent of North America? On this indiſputed dominion, if rightly underſtood, will the

the real ſtrength and importance of all the ſugar colonies be hereafter found to depend; and if in the womb of time, either from accidents impoſſible to be foreſeen, or the natural viciſſitude of human events, an unhappy ſeparation ſhould ever chance to arrive, between the mother country and this gigantick offſpring, the whole chain of American iſlands, from Florida to Trinidada, would look back on Europe with regret, but muſt neceſſarily accompany that continent, of which it ſeems to have once conſtituted a part. But enough, it is preſumed, has been ſaid, to ſhew that the ſettlement of our late acquired Weſt India colonies might be ſafely effected, even if it were probable that a French war ſhould ſpeedily commence.

It remains now to examine, whether the purchaſing lands in them, and eſtabliſhing eſtates, may rationally be undertaken by individuals, with appearances of ſucceſs and advantage. Our new iſlands are ſomething larger in extent, than any of our old ones, excepting Jamaica; nor is it any defect in them that they are much leſs than it; for in hot climates, a long land carriage of burthenſome commodities is deſtructive to cattle, and renders the interior part of a large country of little or no value. The ſoil in them is moreover new and fertile; they ſuffer therefore no inferiority on this account. The face of the country among them is generally mountainous and covered with wood; this is really on the whole an

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advantage, not a defect; for although there are ſome objections to too great an inequality in their ſurface, and to large tracts of wood, yet as theſe contribute to inſure rains and fertility, and to produce rivers, they are very beneficial in theſe climates. The timber likewiſe is uſeful for the erecting and repairing houſes, mills, and ſugar works. All iſlands in theſe latitudes, that are low and cleared of wood, are remarkably ſubject to dry weather, and often parched up to barreneſs. If theſe things are ſo, what ſhould prevent adventurers from ſucceeding in eſtabliſhing eſtates here, as well as our old planters have done in the infancy of former colonies? Is the buſineſs of clearing and ſettling lands leſs underſtood now than it was formerly? or is the neighbourhood of our other iſlands, and the commerce carried on between them, and their general communication with Europe, Africa, and the continent of America, any diſadvantage to the undertaking? Are the regiments allotted them, the various officers both civil and military appointed, the frequent viſits of our ſhips of war and trading veſſels, and the ſums of money that muſt in conſequence of all this be circulated and expended in them, likely to be detrimental to new ſettlements? Although the taxes, and price of ſlaves, and the neceſſary expences of plantations and living, are much greater now than they were at the firſt cultivation of our colonies, do not ſugar and rum bear proportionably a greater price? If

to, the true cauſe of the real poverty of many of our planters, and of the diminution of their profits, after mature reflection, will be found to conſiſt in this, that in our old iſlands the lands are exhauſted and impoveriſhed, the trees all cut down, and their eſtates become ſo dry and unſeaſonable, as conſtantly to diſappoint them of the crops they expect, and their pains and induſtry deſerve; whilſt at the ſame time, the prodigious expences of frequent holing, manuring, planting, hoe-ploughing, and weeding their grounds, and the loſs of cattle and ſtock, occaſioned by their paſtures being burnt up, together with the expence of feeding their negroes, from the want of ſeaſonable proviſion grounds, added to the coſt of timber and lumber imported to them, often bring the proprietors in debt, and very rarely admit of a ballance in their favor, ſuitable to the value of their capital. Theſe are undeniable facts, and it is equally true, that none of theſe diſcouragements here pointed out, are to be apprehended in our new iſlands. On the contrary, it is well known that many of the preſent inhabitants of the Daniſh ſettlement of Santa Crúz, who were driven thither from our leeward iſlands by poverty and neceſſity, are now become, from the loweſt degree of indigence, poſſeſſors of good eſtates; and it is as notorious that by far the greater number of French now inhabiting St. Vincent and Dominica, and poſſeſſed of plantations and negroes, were obliged to quit Martinique

tinique and Guadalupe from ſimilar cauſes. But although this is acknowleged to be true, yet, on the other hand, it may be urged, that our new iſlands are unhealthy, ſugar and rum will become drugs, and more money is required to clear and ſettle Weſt India eſtates, than can eaſily be had. In anſwer to this, it muſt be confeſſed, that new iſlands, abounding with wood, and ſubject to frequent rains, cannot certainly be ſo healthy as old ones, entirely or in great part cleared; but if this objection was ſuffered to take place, it would prove too much, as it might be equally extended to the population and ſettlement of any new country whatſoever, where nothing can be accompliſhed, if ſomething is not adventured. Beſides, thoſe who are acquainted with the progreſs and ſettlement of new colonies, know from experience, that much depends upon diſcretion, temperance, wholeſome food, and dry lodging. A proper attention to theſe will greatly contribute to the preſervation of health, and ſoon give a better character to the ſalubrity of the air. Perſons that are always alarmed with doubts and difficulties, ſeldom accompliſh great things. Why ſhould we fear that ſugar and rum will become drugs? Although more are produced, more will be conſumed. Our conqueſts alone in North America will not fail to encreaſe the demand for them; beſides, the ſame ſoil that is productive of ſugar, is equally ſo of indigo, cotton,

coffee, cocoa, and other articles. And with reſpect to the expence attending the clearing and ſettlement of lands for theſe purpoſes, it is by no means ſo conſiderable as is uſually pretended. However, it is certainly true, that the more capital any man begins with, the ſooner he will grow rich. But it has been already obſerved, that even the poor ſettlers of Santa Cruz, St. Vincent, and Dominica, have ſucceeded wonderfully, with little or no aſſiſtance, but what was derived from their own induſtry, and the fertility of the ſoil. And if we purſue this ſubject a little further, it will hardly be aſſerted, that the firſt adventurers in our old colonies, were guilty of draining the mother country of much of its ſpecie. We have nevertheleſs the ſatisfaction of beholding, that their induſtry and ſpirited endeavours were bleſſed with ſucceſs, and have procured for their poſterity many valueable, and ſome overgrown eſtates. Let us not envy their proſperity, but emulate their examples; and if we dare not do it, through timidity, ſupineneſs, or want of ambition, let us honeſtly confeſs we are afraid, and own that they ſerved their country at their peril, and deſerved the fruits of their labour. They were no ſtrangers, nor their ſons aliens, but poſſeſſed of the rights and liberties common to all Engliſhmen. Thoſe publick ſpirited and enterprizing men, who are now about to embark in a ſimilar deſign, will deſerve as well, and, it is hoped, may prove

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as ſucceſsful. Since our conqueſt of Jamaica from the Spaniards, in the days of Oliver Cromwell, down to the preſent times, there has been no ſuch opportunity of improving private fortunes; for the acquiſition of the French part of St. Chriſtopher's was inconſiderable in extent, and the benefits, of courſe, confined to a few.

It has been remarked by many perſons, that ſome of the planters of our old iſlands have painted in very ſtrong colours the difficulties and diſcouragements attending the eſtabliſhment of our new ones. When this has been done with an honeſt deſign of promoting their ſettlement, by exploring facts not generally known, and diſcovering their weakneſs and neceſſities, in order to obtain every aſſiſtance and encouragement which infant colonies require of a mother country, the intention is honorable, and may be productive of good. But when difficulties are exaggerated, from party prejudices, or ſelfiſh and intereſted views, the motives are ungenerous, and deſerve to be expoſed. It is eaſy to foreſee that the ſettlement of our new colonies will impair the value of our old. Such lands in them as are not of good quality and well ſituated, will not be worth cultivation. They will be diſplanted, and converted into proviſion, and paſture grounds. Many inhabitants of the middling and poorer ſort, will withdraw themſelves, and be induced to remove

where fertile lands may be eaſily procured, which are new, and watered with frequent ſhowers. This will much weaken our leeward iſlands, already weak indeed, and render the wages of managers, overſeers and ſervants, much higher. It is not wonderful, therefore, if ſome of our wealthy planters who have a large landed intereſt in the old colonies, ſhould not be ſtudious to promote the new. Private advantage will biaſs ſome, and it is to be feared, jealouſy and envy may actuate others. Men accuſtomed to affluence and authority, are not uſually pleaſed to ſee their inferiors riſe above dependance, and poſſeſs, by lucky circumſtances, ſuperior fortunes to their own. Nor are theſe the only foundations of diſcontent and objection. Some affect to condemn the enterprize they mean to embark in, and depreciate thoſe very lands they wiſh to procure; whilſt others again, who hoped to obtain undue preferences, and to monopolize large tracts, with a view of foreſtalling the market, or of ſelling again at advanced prices what they never meant to cultivate, now find themſelves diſappointed, and their deſigns effectually prevented, by the preſent impartial plan of government. But juſter ſentiments, it is hoped, will at length prevail over ſuch ſelfiſh conſiderations. The ſubject has been fairly diſcuſſed, the objections anſwered, and the inducements generally ſtated. But perhaps it may not be diſagreeable, or deemed a uſeleſs repe-

repetition, to enter into a more particular detail of the advantages that our new acquiſitions will poſſeſs over our former colonies.

Our old iſlands, by being leſs mountainous, and almoſt entirely cleared of wood, are become extremely dry and unſeaſonable; at the ſame time that the lands in them, by long and conſtant planting, have ſo far loſt the ſpring and ſpirit of vegetation, as to ſtand in need of more rains than they had before. But this reflexion has never been attended to by our planters, who attribute ſolely to the leſs frequency of ſeaſonable weather, that deficiency in their crops, which is in a great meaſure owing to the impoveriſhment of the ſoil. Both cauſes have undoubtedly co-operated to produce the effect, and thus their eſtates hardly yield a crop proportionable to the labour and expence employed upon them, once in ſeven years. Nor will it ſeem wonderful, that the fertility of their lands is much impaired, when we conſider the nature of the ſugar cane, which from one rich acre has been known to vegetate to eighty cart loads, is cut annually, and has been long and repeatedly planted on the ſame ground; and when we further remark that the rains, although generally wanted, yet fall in theſe climates, at certain periods of the year, with ſuch violence, as, deſcending in momentary torrents from the hills, to waſh away the looſe and finer particles of earth, which muſt neceſſarily carry off it's exuberancy with it. The ſoil, by theſe means worn out and

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exhauſted, * ratoons ill, and is therefore cultivated and manured at an expence extremely heavy. Impoveriſhed ſugar lands, like hop grounds, have annually beſtowed on them extraordinary induſtry and coſt. I have known the amount of labour employed in one year upon an acre of ground, to have been as much as that acre would have ſold for; but I ſpeak of indifferent or bad land. Hence the expences of eſtates in our old colonies are become great, beyond the belief of any one not well acquainted with matters of this nature; and the profits, of courſe, are rarely adequate to the reaſonable expectations of the planter. It is well known abroad, although it will hardly be credited here, that the hire of the ſlaves in many eſtates in our old iſlands, if valued at an average of three pence per diem each, will frequently amount to more per annum, than the neat yearly produce of the eſtate itſelf. *Experto crede Roberto.* But theſe weighty objections and diſcouragements, are by no means to be apprehended in our new colonies. On the contrary, the lands in them may be purchaſed at a very moderate price, and the terms of payment are rendered by government extremely eaſy. Such grounds as are too ſteep, craggy, or improper for ſugar, may ſtill

* By a Ratoon is meant the cane which ſprings from the root remaining in the earth, after the former cane has been cut from it. The ratoon flouriſhes beſt in new land, yields better ſugar than the firſt plant, and is not attended with a tenth part of the expence in the culture of it.

produce

produce indigo, cotton, coffee, cocoa and proviſions, or ſerve for paſturage. The ſoil being new, will be rich, yield large and regular crops, ratoon longer, require leſs planting, and be cultivated with more moderate expence, and fewer negroes. The trees cut down, will, ſome of them, be uſeful in erecting habitations, works, and other buildings; whilſt ſome may be conveyed away, and ſold in our former colonies for ſimilar purpoſes. And laſt of all, the rugged and broken compoſition of the landſcape, and it's lofty mountains, though unſeemly and exceptionable in ſome reſpects, yet will for ever enjoy, upon real and philoſophical principles, rain and fertility. As much of the merit of our new iſlands depends on the truth of this obſervation, it may not be improper to explain it. It is well known, that, in theſe latitudes of the globe, the trade winds operating in a regular and uninterrupted courſe from Eaſt to Weſt, the atmoſphere does not ſuffer thoſe rarefactions and condenſations, as, by the effects of different and contrary winds, it undergoes in climes, where this uniformity does not prevail. And hence it is, Dr. Halley remarks, that there is ſcarce any variation in the height of the barometer, or weight of the air in theſe parts. Now the vapours or clouds are generally borne along the Atlantick ocean by theſe winds through the pathleſs regions of the air; until interrupted, impeded, or attracted (on principles of gravitation) by

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lofty lands, and woods, they hang about the mountain-tops, and fall in ſhowers; whilſt the intenſe heat of the ſun co-operating with this principle, draws ſuch vapours from the ground; and the everlaſting trees, on inacceſſible heights, ſend forth ſuch exhalations from their branches, as moiſten the impending atmoſphere, and, circulating, again reviſit their parent earth. The wonderful effects of theſe principles are indeed curious and ſurpriſing to thoſe who contemplate them on the ſpot. Smooth poliſhed Barbadoes and our Leeward Iſlands, are ſeen parched up and periſhing with drought; whilſt towering and rugged Dominica, St. Vincent, Granada, and Tobago, are found to enjoy inceſſant rains and delicious verdure. The extraordinary advantages and profits to be derived from this and the other cauſes, I have before aſſigned, cannot fail to be extremely inviting to thoſe that underſtand their real importance, and are deſirous of improving their fortunes. A ſugar eſtate of five hundred acres of good land, properly cleared, and ſupplied with ſlaves, cattle, buildings, and other requiſites, in an iſland where the lands are new and luxuriant, and the rains frequent, muſt aſſuredly produce a noble income. It would probably be capable of affording annually, not leſs than four hundred hogſheads of ſugar, and a large proportion of rum; eſpecially as this laſt commodity is made to greateſt advantage where there is plenty of water, and much moloſſes is drained

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from the ſugar. The value of this ſugar and rum, at a moderate calculation, will appear to amount to a very great intereſt upon the capital laid out, which will be found to bring in more profit, than five times that ſum expended in our old colonies. It is well known that in St. Kitts (although it is ſubject to dry weather, and the ſoil ratoons very ill) good lands have often ſold at one hundred pounds ſterling per acre: whereas, an acre in a new colony may, with proper management, be cleared for leſs than twenty pounds, after deducting every expence, and allowing even for the mortality of ſlaves. Beſides, great ſatisfaction muſt accrue in new colonies from the certainty of the crops, oppoſed to the conſideration of the precarioufneſs of them in old ones; a conſtant ſource of complaint, and diſcontent, and the true foundation of thoſe debts and diſtreſſes, too commonly experienced even by planters of frugality and induſtry. But theſe are not the only advantages, great as they are, that will be enjoyed; for the plantation may be worked with half the number of negroes and expence, that would be required upon lands impoveriſhed and frequently planted and manured; and every ſuch negro will be capable, from the great fertility of the ſoil, and eaſe of its culture, of earning more money in two years, than his original coſt and maintenance has amounted to. This will appear obvious, when we conſider that the firſt plant in new and good ground has been known to ratoon

and yield annual good crops for more than twenty years together. Whereas old land commonly requires to be holed, manured, and replanted every ſecond or third year; by which, beſides the extraordinary expence attending it, one crop in three is loſt. Moreover, the proviſions regularly yielded on moiſt and good grounds, muſt greatly leſſen the coſt of feeding and ſupporting the ſlaves. The conveniences and comforts will from hence be even great to the white inhabitants; for all manner of herbs, garden ſtuff, and fruits, ſo difficult to be raiſed in our former dry iſlands, may here be procured with little trouble. The rivulets alſo will afford good ſtore of freſh fiſh, and the luxuriancy of the paſturage, great plenty of beef, mutton, &c. at moderate prices, whereas theſe articles in our old colonies are become extremely dear, and difficult to be maintained at any rate. Nor ſhould the conſideration of the expences attending the ſpeedy ſettlement of a ſugar plantation, at all diſcourage perſons of ſmall fortune, and much caution, from adventuring in our new colonies; ſince they will have it in their power to proſecute plans, proportionably advantageous to themſelves, with leſs hazard and expence of money. It is by no means eſſential, at preſent, to point out all the particular and various ſteps proper to be taken for this end. But, in general, it may be well to remark, that it may be beſt accompliſhed by riſquing few negroes at the firſt out-ſet, and erecting tem-

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porary huts and buildings, at little coſt, and then, (after planting the neceſſary proviſions) immediately applying to the culture of indigo, cotton, coffee, or cocoa, articles which afford good and ſpeedy profit, yet require but few ſlaves, and little expence of building, in order to raiſe and manufacture them. It is evident, that by theſe and ſimilar means, conſiderable eſtates may be gradually eſtabliſhed at an eaſy rate, which will not only be annually improving, and reimburſing the moneys expended upon them, but may moreover be converted afterwards into ſugar plantations, or if the proprietors ſhould be diſpoſed to part with them, might probably be ſold for four or five hundred per cent. advantage. Many perſons alarmed with the difficulties of beginning a new ſettlement, will yet be deſirous of purchaſing a few years hence, and there can be no doubt but that lands will riſe very highly in their value, as ſoon as time ſhall draw up the curtain, and open a fair proſpect of ſucceſs.

I ſhall now proceed to communicate to the reader ſome general ideas concerning the propereſt methods to be purſued by adventurers in our new colonies, to engage ſucceſs, and eſtabliſh eſtates.

All perſons diſpoſed to embark in this undertaking, with a view of improving their fortunes, ſhould firſt conſider the capital they mean to employ, the nature of the project, and the length

of time they can conveniently afford to be out of their money. It will then be neceſſary that themſelves, or the friends or agents they are pleaſed to depute for this buſineſs, ſhould carefully inſpect and examine the lands on the ſpot. The ſurface of the ground, and the nature of ſituation ſhould be firſt attended to; and theſe will include our ideas of the probability of its healthineſs, the kind of produce it ſeems beſt adapted to, the labour and carriage eſſential to it, its vicinity to, or diſtance from rivulets, the ſea, ſhipping places, and the principal towns, together with a free enjoyment of the cradle winds, and the likelihood of frequent ſhowers and ſeaſonable weather. As to the quality of the ſoil, it may be pretty well gueſſed at by the timber and trees it affords, the appearance it bears, and a chymical examination of its principles; for which the neceſſary means may be eaſily known and procured. When a tract of ground is pitched on, that enjoys all or moſt of theſe advantages, the inſpector ſhould by no means be diſcouraged by the price it may amount to; for the firſt coſt will be inconſiderable, in proportion to the expence of clearing and ſettling; and the enſuing conveniencies and profits will moſt amply repay it. Previous to, or after the purchaſe, it will be neceſſary, eſpecially if the proprietor does not mean to become an inhabitant, to form uſeful connections and friendſhips with experienced men engaged in the ſame purſuit, and reſiding

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in the neighbourhood. This will not be found ſo difficult to effect, as may at firſt be imagined. Men embarking in the ſame enterprize, and whoſe particular advantages and emoluments depend upon the ſucceſs of the whole, will find it their mutual intereſt to lend every aſſiſtance in their power to each other. This is ſo true, that in the iſlands of Antigua, St. Chriſtophers, &c. it is uſual for planters to ſuperintend the affairs of others in their abſence, and give the neceſſary directions to the managers and overſeers, for the proper cultivation and maintenance of their eſtates, and this without any pecuniary conſideration. A reciprocal ſervice of the ſame kind, which every planter expects from his neighbour, and which long and invariable cuſtom has eſtabliſhed into a ſort of right, and the additional weight and importance perſons reſiding on the ſpot derive from a power of conferring obligations on thoſe they employ, or in ſhipping the produce of the eſtates committed to their care, and purchaſing the neceſſary utenſils and proviſions for their uſe, are ſufficient inducements to engage a faithful diſcharge of their truſt. Under the inſpection, and ſubject to the orders of ſuch a repreſentative, a good natured and intelligent manager and overſeer are now to be appointed to direct, and proper ſlaves procured to execute the buſineſs. A few able and ſenſible tradeſmen and negroes, who are contented from a love of novelty, or other cauſes and encouragements, to change their former habita-

habitations, ſhould be procured in our old iſlands, and tranſported to the new colony; but none ſhould on any account be compelled to this againſt their inclinations. What further ſlaves are wanted, may be purchaſed from Guinea cargoes, and recommended to the care and protection of the others; and, it is preſumed, will turn out better in many reſpects, than negroes accuſtomed to our other iſlands, and pining after former connections and habits. The miſeries and misfortunes of our fellow creatures afford a melancholy contemplation to compaſſionate diſpoſitions. How pleaſing muſt be the reflection, when the degrees of our private intereſt depend upon the meaſure of our benevolence. The firſt fair ſtep of ſucceſs will accompany humanity, and the great point in view will be, with the bleſſing of providence, to preſerve the health of our people. To this end they ſhould be lodged at night in temporary huts, or in hulks of veſſels, provided and ſituated for that purpoſe. They ſhould then immediately proceed to clear away the woods on the moſt healthy ſpot, which will probably be found on ſome eminence, expoſed to a free and dry air. Here a dwelling houſe for the overſeer, and convenient negroe houſes, ſhould be immediately erected, and a very commodious ſick houſe or hoſpital, furniſhed with every neceſſary and comfort for the ſick, eſpecially good nurſes, and a ſenſible practitioner. Wiſe men will not attempt too rapid a progreſs, or introduce more ſlaves than

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sus properly be inspected when well, or attended when oppressed with illness. From twenty to thirty will, perhaps, at first, be sufficient for the largest possession, and in all probability may prove adequate to fulfilling the conditions of clearing and culture; but they should be immediately supplied as they may happen to fall off, and their spirits should be supported with good nature and readiness. In particular, they should be well fed, properly cherished, and supplied with those little aids of convenience and comfort, which it is well known in that part of the world, will chear up and gladden their hearts. The expences attending this little policy, care and benevolence, will not be thought burthersome by those masters who are either wise or good; for the performance of this duty will be rewarded with the blessings of God, and the affections of their dependents. As to the labour they must undergo, it should not be too severe, or disproportioned to their abilities; and in wet mornings, bad weather, and other suitable occasions, it will prove our interests to encourage, and afford them some indulgence. Their pride should be cultivated, their punishments inflicted with prudence, moderation and concern. And in order to prevent the cruelties that might be exercised by some men, thro' want of judgment or defect of feeling, a proper law of the country should be speedily established, to restrain them within due bounds, which should likewise provide in some measure for the food and raiment of

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the slaves. Such a law cannot fail of benefiting the colony, at the same time that it will reflect honor on human nature; and will be deemed more particularly necessary, when it is considered that the lower class of adventurers residing in new colonies, is generally made up of men, who stand in need of other inducements than such as their own sentiments furnish them with, to act up to the dictates of humanity and propriety. It were to be wished moreover, that some sentiments of religion could be instilled into the minds of the negroes. I am sure it would be expedient; but am fearful this would require more attention and assistance than protestants will choose to employ on such an occasion. I am sorry to remark our defect of zeal, and to make this further observation, that though the doctrines of our religion are more pure and simple than the Roman catholick, yet this last is more fitly adapted to engage and captivate the passions of unthinking savages. Persons of some capital or credit, adventuring in these new colonies, and proceeding in the manner that has been suggested, cannot well fail of success, as far as weak human foresight can ascertain it. If therefore it should seem that too much has been said concerning the treatment, care, and protection of our negroes, it is because it is conceived impossible to miscarry in other points, if we succeed in these. And now it will be proper, that still further grounds should be cleared round about the dwellings and cottages, before recommended

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to be erected: And firſt of all, proviſions ſhould be planted for the white people and negroes, and paſturage prepared for cattle and other beaſts. After this is accompliſhed, attention may be had to raiſe ſome ſort of produce and profit, in order to reimburſe paſt expences. And this will conſiſt of either indigo, cotton, coffee, cocoa, or ſugar, as may be compatible with the ideas and abilities of the planter. But advice and theory on this head, would at preſent be vain and unregarded; for, time, induſtry, and experience alone, can furniſh opportunity, and beget profitable knowledge.

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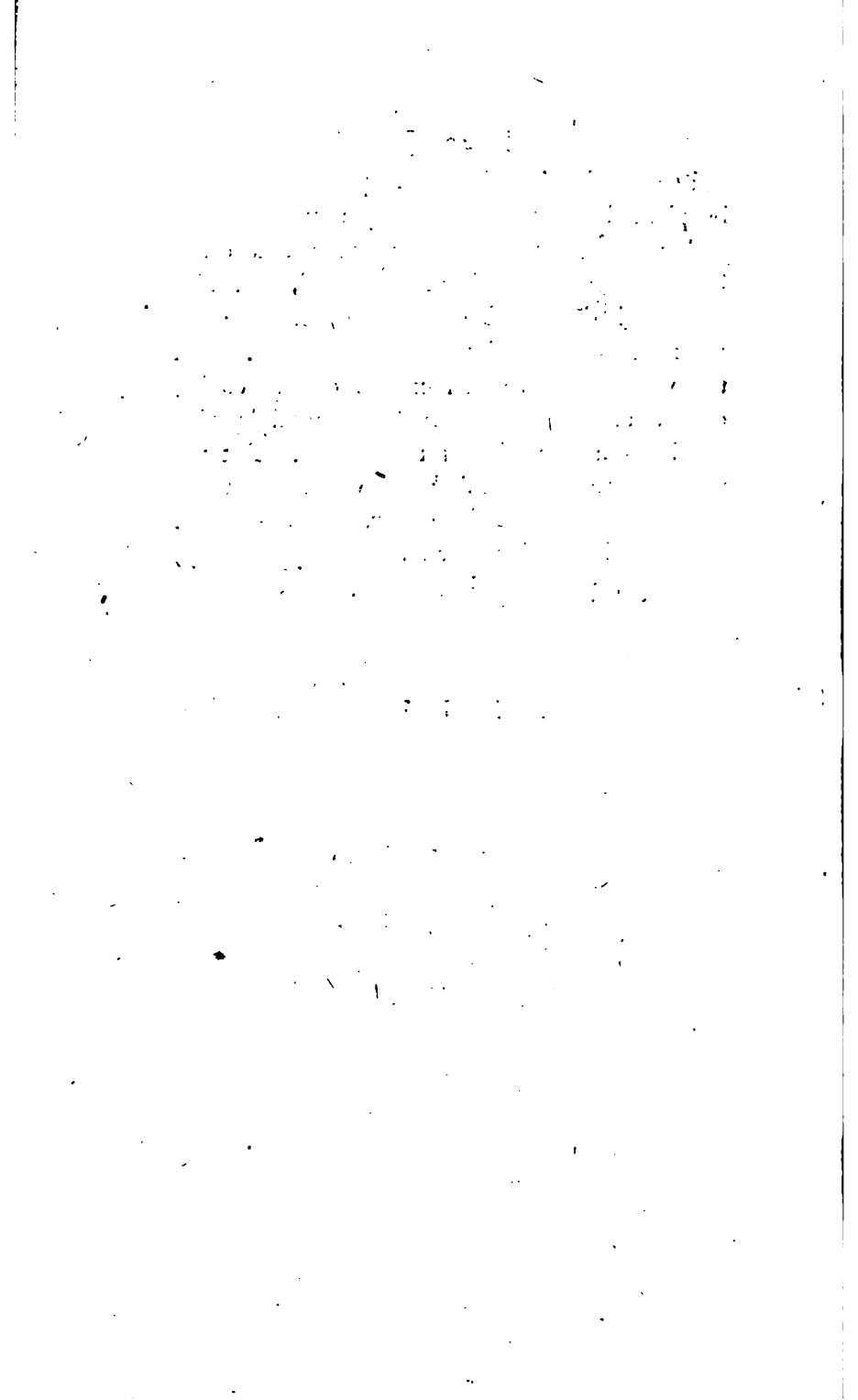

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